31/3/74

ART

Oliver Kerr

WITH the outstanding exhibition of watercolours by Patrick Procktor, at Gallery 101, Johannesburg (by arrangement with Orde Levinson), Johannesburg has had two leading British watercolourists showing their work within days of each other.

John Knapp-Fisher, whose paintings were discussed last week, shows the steadier, most consistent approach, although Procktor is far more adventurous with colour and technical ideas. Yet it is the search to express himself with methods beyond the range of watercolour that gives Procktor's excellent show a slight restlessness.

Occasional studies where he aims to give atmospheric impressions of strange light effects in the sky are so rapid, even brusque, that subtlety becomes muted. And if Procktor's fine talent were to be analysed in his most brilliant watercolours, one would find that subtlety is his strongest asset.

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IT certainly is to Tadeus Jarosczynski's credit that his eerie paintings stand out in the company of two famous overseas artists. The standard of the continental artists, Matta and Dova, is considerable. Dova has some enchanting abstract compositions where imagination is allowed fullest rein.

The work of Matta, aside from his impeccable technique, is a mite unsettled in subject choice.

Yet is is Jarosczynski who dominates the show. For the first time one begins to clearly see the true importance of this most unusual artist. His approach is also one of fantasy and the compositions are well-knit and most carefully constructed.

This certainly is Jarosczynski's most important exhibition and wary collectors (who seek out an artist's most mature work) can be sure that Jarosczynski is touching that peak period at which he has been aiming for the last decade or so. This unusual show, combining the talents of a South African and two continental artists, is on view at Lidchi Gallery, Johannesburg.

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UNA GILLESPIE, at 31 Cecil Avenue, Melrose, Johannesburg, works with subtlety and sensitivity. Her best oil paintings have her merely whispering the subject matter with delicate brushwork and muted tones.